

MOTHS OF MESOPOTAMIA AND N. W. PERSIA.

PART II.

SPHINGES & BOMBYCES

BY

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AND

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General remarks on the affinities of the Mesopotamian fauna would be out of place in a short paper devoted to systematics. One new species and one new sub-species are described below :

*Sphingide.*1. *Acherontia styx*, Westw.

One, July, one. August 1916, Amara, B.-T.; one, Baghdad, 10th October 1917. P. A. B. ; one, 30th May 1917, Amara, B. N. H. S. Closely allied to *A. atropos*, of Europe.

2. *Herse convolvuli*, L.

One 15th May 1918, Baghdad—" 11-30 p.m. at light. Insect settled on plaster wall. Large wall lizard advanced towards it from in front, halting about 8 inches away. Lizard attacked, biting insect on left fore wing, costa near thorax, injuring this region. Insect escaped after struggle, fell to ground and was secured.

N.B.—Sphingid moths seem very liable to attack by wall lizards, as I have witnessed this also in *C. lineata* and *T. alecto*. Owing to their size they also made their escape in the encounters mentioned," W. E. Waller.

3. *Deilephila nerii*, L.

One, Amara, 20th November 1916, C ; one, 16th November 1918, Basra, C. ; one, 30th April 1919, bred from Basra larva, B. N. H. S. ; one, 30th March 1919, Beit Na'ama, " one caught, several seen," W. E. E.

4. *Celerio lineata*, Fab., subsp. *livornica*, Esp.

One, Amara, 7th May 1918, P. A. B. ; one, May 1918, Kut ; Qizil Robot, 14th March to 10th April 1919, " the moth fairly common by day at a white-flowered scabious ; larva found on small plantain, pupated April 21st, emerged 11th May " ; moth at light 15th May, H. D. P.

5. *Celerio nicæa*, de Prunner.

One, Kermanshah, 1918, Br. This specimen is of the typical European race and not of the subspecies *lathyrus*, Wlk., of which the type from N. India is in the British Museum. A coloured sketch of the showy larva, and a full description of it was sent home by Col. Peile. This larva was found on a rock high up at Harir, N. W. Persia, 12th September 1918 ; the food-plant is spurge (*Euphorbia*).

6. *Hippotion celerio*, L.

Two, Beit Na'ama, Basra, 26th March and 1st April 1919, at light, W. E. E.

7. *Theretra alecto* subsp. *cretica*, Boisd.

We have seen specimens collected in every month from March to September, at Basra, Amara and Baghdad. Buxton found pupæ at Amara, one on the ground under a log, and another under the bark of a *Zizyphus* tree four feet from the ground ; both were completely without any cocoon or earthen cell.

8. *Pergesa elpenor*, L.

One 27th June 1919, Enzeli, Caspian Sea, P. A. B. This specimen is of the typical European form.

9. *Laothoe kindermanni*, Lederer.

One, ♀, Ararat, Kurdistan, C. This specimen is of the typical race. Two (1 ♂, 1 ♀,) 16th November 1918, Basra, C., are subspecies, *orbata*, Gr. which is lighter and more uniformly marked. The species is allied to *L. cellatus* of Europe.

10. *Macroglossa stellatarum*, L.

We have examined a number of specimens collected in September, October and November at Basra, Amara, Baghdad, Mirjana, Khaniqin, Kirkuk, and Kermanshah and two collected in April at Beit Na'ama, near Basra, W. E. E. "one, 18th November 1918, Mirjana, near Qizil Robat; often comes into tents seeking hibernation; *ibid*, 27th January 1919," H. D. P.

*Hypsiidæ.*11. *Callimorpha quadripunctaria*, Poda (= *hera*, L.)

13th July to 19th August 1918, Harir and Karind, W. Persia. "In large numbers settled on leaves of trees a few feet from the ground, easy to catch; August 10, abundant still but more females; 19th August nearly over," H. D. P.

*Arctiidæ.*12. *Utetheisa pulchella*, L.

We have seen a large series collected in every month between 2nd May and 1st November from Nasiriyeh, Amara, Baghdad, Mirjana near Qizil Robat, Jebel Hamrin on the River Diyala, Kut, Kirkuk, and Assur. The moth is continuously on the wing throughout this period, and Buxton took two specimens freshly emerged at Amara on 23rd October. Peile found larvæ in dozens at Mirjana from December to February.

13. *Ocnogyna lævii*, Zell.

Five males taken at light between 11th December 1918 and 7th January 1919 at Mirjana, H. D. P.: Like a small pale *Arctia*; the ♀ has rudimentary wings.

14. *Pelosia muscerda*, Hufn.

One, 31st May 1919, Enzeli, Caspian Sea, P. A. B.

15. *Pelosia uniformis*, sp. nov.

Lord Rothschild has been good enough to give us this description for insertion "Female uniform wood-brown. Forewing with three obsolete darker dots on veins 3, 4 and 7 respectively. Hindwings slightly paler. Length of forewing 10 mm. Expanse 23 mm. 1 ♀, Enzeli, Caspian Sea, 1st June 1919, P. A. Buxton." The type is in the Tring Museum.

*Lasiocampidæ.*16. *Lasiocampa grandis*, Rogenh. (= *salomonis*, Stgr.)

One male, 30 May 1917, Amara, C. This specimen agrees with the description and figure in Seitz's *Macrolepidoptera* of the world. *L. grandis* is already known from Palestine, and there appears very little doubt that this specimen belongs to that species, but we have been unable to compare it with actual specimens.

17. *Lasiocampa terreni*, H. Sch.

One male, 23rd October 1919, Mosul, H. D. P. This specimen appears to be referable to the above species but is more silvery over the whole upper surface except the fringes, than the only specimen in the British Museum, a male from Transcaucasia.

18. *Chilena proxima*, Stgr.

One male "probably from Kut", B. N. H. S.; one male, 12 May 1918, Baghdad, at light. (W. E. Waller).

19. *Taragama siva*, Lef.

First brood: male bred 27th April 1918 Amara, W. E. E.; female. 28th April 1918, Amara, at light, P. A. B. Second brood: male, 27th September 1916, Amara, B. T.; male on poplar tree, 4th October 1918, W. E. E.; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 16th November 1918, Basra, C. The larva feeds on the common shrub (*Prosopis*)

which is generally called acacia; and its colour makes it exceedingly difficult of detection even when a number of larvæ are resting on a bush which they have rendered almost leafless; the general colour of the larva is a warm purplish brown, and it flattens itself over the surface of the stem in the manner of its relative the Lappet Moth (*Gastropacha*) in Great Britain.

Lymantriidæ (Liparidæ).

20. *Lymantria dispar*, L.

2 ♂, 13th July 1918, Harir, W. Persia, H. D. P.

21. *Ocnerogyia amanda*, Stgr.

3 ♂, 1 ♀, 28th July 1918, Ba'qubah, River Diyala, P. A. B. This moth though almost unknown in collections is a serious pest of figs in Mesopotamia; it completely defoliates the trees, and has been received from various parts of the Diyala basin and from Kerbela; it was originally described from Mardin in the extreme north of Mesopotamia. Notes on its ravages, life history and structure have been published by one of us in Bull. Ent. Res. XI. p. 181—186. (1920).

22. *Ocneria signatoria*, Christoph, subsp. *pænitens*, Stgr.

1 ♀, Baghdad, 9th October. 11 ♀, Aziziyeh, River Tigris, 14th October 1917, at light, P. A. B.

23. *Arctornis (Porthesia) chrysorrhæa*, L.

One female, 29th June 1919, Enzeli, P. A. B.

Notodontidæ (Ceruridæ).

24. *Dicranura vinula*, L., subsp. *intermedia*, Teich.

1 ♀, Ararat, Kurdistan, C; 1 ♀, 24th September 1918, Qalat Saleh, River Tigris, P. A. B. In the British Museum there is a female from Quetta, and a male from Fao, very like these specimens, but there are no specimens from Syria. This form is possibly a species distinct from *D. vinula*.

Zygænidæ.

25. *Zygæna dorycnii*, O.

Half a dozen specimens of both sexes from Tula Rud, Persian Talish, 3-8th July 1919. The species was fairly common flying over grass and settling on flowers of chicory, close to the shore of the Caspian, P. A. B.

26. *Procris solana*, Stgr.

1 ♂, 30th March 1919, Menjil, valley of Sufed Rud, N. W. Persia, alt. 2,000 ft. (P. A. B.)

27. *Procris micane*, Fr.

1 ♂, 28th March 1919, Menjil, P. A. B. It is curious that the only two "foresters" taken at the same time and place represent quite different species; these were the only ones seen though a special effort was made to find more.

Cossidæ.

28. *Cossus araraticus*, Teich.

1 ♂, 29th May 1919, Enzeli, P. A. B.

29. *Holocercus gloriosus*, Stgr., subsp., *mesopotamicus*, n. subsp.

2 ♂, 3 ♀, 28th June 1918, Kut; Br. 5 ♀, 30th May to 28th June 1918, Amara, P. A. B. It appears that the Mesopotamian race of this insect is undescribed, and as we have been able to compare the above specimens with 9 specimens from Bokhara, the terra typica, we feel justified in describing the race as new: it differs from the typical form in that all the spots on the forewing are enlarged into blotches, with the exception of the spots at the base of the fringe. The type is a female collected at Kut by Major Broughton, and has been presented to the British Museum by the B. N. H. S.